



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Dolores Ranger District  
San Juan National Forest

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<http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan>

File Code: 2360

Date: June 7, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

The Dolores Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest has released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *Dolores Aspen Project*.

The proposed project consists of vegetation management activities on mature aspen stands in 5 areas, generally located east and northeast of Dolores, CO. The overall objective of the Dolores Aspen Project is to: 1) improve and maintain the resistance and resiliency of aspen forest ecosystems over the long-term, 2) increase the diversity of aspen forest ecosystem developmental stages (size and age class) and, 3) provide economic support to local communities by providing timber products to local industries in a sustainable manner.

The district invites your input on the proposed vegetation management project.

The Draft EA describes the proposed action in more detail and provides a summary of potential effects of the project on various resources. The Draft EA, along with other project documents, is available for review at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54880>. The draft EA is also available at the Dolores Public Lands Office. For more information on the project, contact David Casey (see below).

For this project, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are being conducted concurrently. In order to better involve the public in the NHPA process, NEPA notification letters and public legal notices which invite public comment as part of the NEPA process also serve to notify and invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated by NHPA.

#### *How to Comment and Timeframe*

The *Dolores Aspen Project* would implement the San Juan National Forest's existing Land and Resource Management Plan; it is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The public is encouraged to provide specific written comments (§218.2) on this proposal for the responsible official to consider. Specific written comments should be within the scope of and have a direct relationship to the proposed action.

Written comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in The Cortez Journal. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period (anticipated date June 7, 2019). The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.



Only those who submit timely and specific written comments during this formally designated comment period will have eligibility to file an objection under §218.8. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunity. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a)(3), including that each individual or representative from each entity submitting written comments must provide the name and postal address of the individual or entity submitting the comment, and either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Names, contact information, and the comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Comments must be received by the end of the comment opportunity and may be submitted as follows:


Electronic comments can be submitted through the electronic comment form located on the project webpage - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54880>

Mail, or in person, to either David Casey, Supervisory Forester, or Derek Padilla, District Ranger Dolores Ranger District, Attention: Dolores Aspen Project, 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81321 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays), (970) 882-7296.

Fax (970) 882-6841, Attn: Derek Padilla.

Thank you for your interest in the project and the management of the San Juan National Forest.

Sincerely,

  
*Tom Rice* ACTING FOR:  
DEREK J PADILLA  
District Ranger